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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,535	01/24/2001	Robert J. Schena	9469-4 DI2	3002

28977 7590 05/04/2004

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EXAMINER

HOLZEN, STEPHEN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,535

Applicant(s)

SCHENA ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen A. Holzen

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 18, 19.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/23/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant asserts that Reber et al dose not extracting link information from the machine readable code, and applying at least the link information to a link table to identify a network address of the database containing records of the transaction, and then directing the user format he portal server to the identified network address. However col. 7, lines 30-35 of Reber teach "a non-predictable bar code to encode an electronic address to identify the computer-readable transaction information. As an example of the network address Reber uses a website. Inherently the method includes an address database to link the non-predicable code with the web address. The claims stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 21-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reber et al (5,969,324). Reber et al discloses a method of commercial administration using a

network connecting a scanner, a portal server, and a receiver, the method comprising the steps of generating a written record of a transition, which record includes machine-readable code identifying at least the transaction and a database containing records of the transaction and accessible from the network via the portal server (see Abstract),

scanning said machine-readable code using the scanner (#54)

storing the machine - readable code in a memory (#50)

optionally obtaining and storing a user input information (see Col. 6, line 6)

sending the stored information and information identifying the user to the portion server via the network, receiving the information at the portal server, and accessing the records of the transaction in the said database. (see Col. 5, lines 26-32)

Re - Claim 22: which comprises downloading from the database to the receiver the records of the transaction (see Col. 5, lines 26-32)

Re - Claim 23: wherein the written record is a receipt (abstract) and which comprises importing the downloaded records into an expense accounting system (see Col. 5, lines 30-32)

Re - Claim 24: Which comprise automatically transferring funds to pay a debt created by the transaction (see Col. 5, lines 30-32)

Re - Claim 25: appending user information (see Figure 9 and Col. 6, line 6)

Re - Claim 26: wherein the transaction is a sale and the database contains product and purchaser information (see Abstract, Col. 6, lines 1-10)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber in view of Cragun et al (5,804,803). Reber teaches every aspect of the present invention except which comprise using the product and purchaser information for warranty administration for maintenance contract administration and supply of upgrades. Cragun et al teaches that it is well known and old in the art to supply information related to warranty, maintenance and upgrades on the product in the form of a bar code. (see Col. 4, lines 1-30). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encode warranty, service and upgrade information on the receipt (instead of on the product itself) to allow for a more aesthetically pleasing design.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen A. Holzen whose telephone number is 703-308-2484. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles T. Jordan can be reached on 703-306-4159. The fax phone

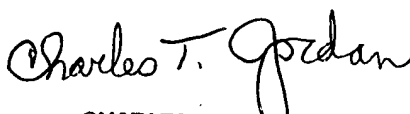
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Art Unit: 3644

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sah


CHARLES T. JORDAN
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